

✓ On page 17, line 17, after "core", please insert ---

In the Claims:

✓ Please cancel claims 15 to 20 without prejudice to prosecute them in a divisional application.

Please amend the claims as follows:

a' 9. (Amended) The composite metal seal ring as claimed in claim 8, wherein the [the] first annular region of relatively soft metal has a thickness in said radial direction of at least one-eighth of an inch, and the second annular region of relatively soft metal has a thickness in said radial direction of at least one-eighth of an inch.

put 37 10. (Amended) The composite metal seal ring as claimed in claim 8, wherein the annular core of relatively hard metal is inlaid and overlaid with the relatively soft metal of the first [second] annular region of relatively soft metal, and the annular core of relatively hard metal is inlaid and overlaid with the relatively soft metal of the second annular region of relatively soft metal.

In lieu of the cancelled claims, please insert the following new claims 21 to 26:

a² -- 21. A composite metal seal ring for effecting a resettable fluid pressure seal with respective annular surfaces of first and second hub members, the composite metal seal ring comprising an annular core of relatively hard metal, a first annular region of relatively soft metal

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integrally bonded to the annular core of relatively hard metal, and a second annular region of relatively soft metal integrally bonded to the annular core of relatively hard metal, the first annular region of relatively soft metal having a first annular surface for mating with the annular surface of the first hub member to effect a fluid pressure seal with the first hub member, and the second annular region of relatively soft metal having a second annular surface for mating with the annular surface of the second hub member to effect a fluid pressure seal with the second hub member, wherein the two annular regions of relatively soft metal are displaced from each other along a longitudinal axis of the composite metal seal ring;

wherein the first annular region of relatively soft metal has a thickness in said radial direction of at least one-eighth of an inch, and the second annular region of relatively soft metal has a thickness in said radial direction of at least one-eighth of an inch;

wherein the annular core of relatively hard metal is inlaid and overlaid with the relatively soft metal of the first annular region of relatively soft metal, and the annular core of relatively hard metal is inlaid and overlaid with the relatively soft metal of the second annular region of relatively soft metal;

wherein the first annular region of relatively soft metal is welded onto the annular core of relatively hard metal, and the relatively soft metal of the second annular region of relatively soft metal is welded onto the annular core of relatively hard metal;

wherein the composite metal seal ring has a longitudinal axis, and the annular surface of the first annular region of relatively soft metal is tapered with respect to the longitudinal axis to have a varying radius that is smallest away from the second annular region of relatively soft metal and that is largest toward the second annular region of relatively soft metal, and the annular surface of the second annular region of relatively soft metal is tapered with respect to the

longitudinal axis to have a varying radius that is smallest away from the first annular region of relatively soft metal and that is largest toward the first annular region of relatively soft metal.

22. The composite metal seal ring as claimed in claim 21, wherein the first annular region of relatively soft metal has at least one annular groove in the neighborhood of the annular surface of the first annular region of relatively soft metal, the annular groove in the first annular region of relatively soft metal being rectangular in cross-section and having walls that are perpendicular to the tapered annular surface of the first annular region of relatively soft metal, and

wherein the second annular region of relatively soft metal has at least one annular groove in the neighborhood of the annular surface of the second annular region of relatively soft metal, the annular groove in the second annular region of relatively soft metal being rectangular in cross-section and having walls that are perpendicular to the tapered annular surface of the second annular region of relatively soft metal.

23. The composite metal seal ring as claimed in claim 21, wherein the composite metal seal ring is adapted for containing a pressure within the hubs of at least 10,000 psi.

24. The composite metal seal ring as claimed in claim 21, wherein the composite metal seal ring has an internal diameter of at least 3 inches.

25. The composite metal seal ring as claimed in claim 21, wherein the composite metal seal ring is a hybrid of a pressure energized seal type AX and a compression seal type BX.